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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

November 9, 1962

SUBJECT:

Political consultation

PARTICIPANTS:

Ambassador Herve Alphand (France)
 W. W. Rostow, Counselor and Chairman of the
 Policy Planning Council

FILE

COPIES TO:

The Secretary
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 ARA

M - Mr. Jorden
 RM/R
 White House ✓

In conversation with Ambassador Alphand at the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow on November 7, he made the following points:

1. De Gaulle understands fully why the Cuba crisis had to be handled without consultation, but this technique could not work in a Berlin crisis.
2. We should move as soon as we can on the problem of political consultation; and the initiative for it should come from Washington.
3. Paris is prepared to accept Washington as the locus of consultation and is also prepared to accept West Germany as an equal of the Big Three.
4. We should not follow the British line of "rushing to Moscow" with offers to negotiate on Berlin, non-diffusion, etc., but should go about our business in the Free World awaiting initiatives, if any, from Moscow.

5. He

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5. He feels the only mistake the President made in recent weeks was to see Gromyko. He does not believe in giving the Russians the dignity of direct contact with the President.

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